Government would continue to purposefully pursue this matter with Pakistan.

Indians imprisoned in Pakistani Jails

†4175. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn towards Roop lal Saharia who has been released recently after imprisonment of more than 25 years in Pakistani jails on the charge of spying;

(b) if so, the number of such Indians who have been imprisoned in Pakistani jails for such long time;

(c) whether Government have deliberated with the Government of Pakistan for their release; and

(d) if so, the outcome of deliberations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (d) Shri Roop Lal Saharia, an Indian national, was repatriated to India on 14-4-2000 after being held for more than 25 years in Pakistani custody.

Government is in continuous contact with Pakistan through diplomatic channels for the release and repatriation of all Indian nationals including those held in Pakistani custody over long periods. Government has urged Pakistan to recognise the need to streamline and improve existing procedures relating to consular access and repatriation of each other's nationals held in custody by both countries.

Closing Down of ET&TDC Ltd.

4176. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to close down Electronics Trade & Technology Development Corporation Ltd.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, whether Government will consider introduction of Voluntary Retirement Scheme fot its employees ?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.